# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2151
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2016
Economic Empowerment of Women
Premachandran Shri N.K.

**Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) the details of the schemes implemented by the Government for self-employment and increasing the income of woman so as to provide them economic empowerment;
(b) the financial assistance provided under such schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
(c) whether the Government has received any request from State of Kerala for providing funds for woman empowerment through Kudumasree and Janasree;
(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon;
(e) whether the Government proposes to introduce any new scheme for providing financial assistance to woman for self-employment, if so, the details thereof along with the financial assistance extended by the Government thereunder; and
(f) the further measures taken by the Government for self employment of women and provide them economic empowerment?

## Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been administering Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) Scheme since 1986-87 as a Central Sector Scheme. The STEP Scheme aims to provide skills that give employability to women and to provide competencies and skill that enable women to become self-employed/entrepreneurs. The Scheme is intended to benefit women who are in the age group of 16 years and above across the country. State/UT-wise details of funds allocated to the various organizations including NGOs during the last 3 years and current year is at Annexure-I.
The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, provides collateral free/third party guarantee micro-credit to poor women through NGOs/IMOs for livelihood income generating activities. The loans are given at concessional rate of interest and being sanctioned to the women beneficiaries through various schemes of RMK e.g. (i) Loan promotion scheme, (ii) Main Loan Scheme, (iii) Refinance Scheme, (iv) Franchisee Scheme, (v) Gold Credit Card Scheme, (vi) Housing Loan Scheme and
(vii) Working Capital Term Loan (WCTL). The State/UT-wise details of financial assistance provided by RMK during the last three years are given at Annexure-II.
(c): The Ministry of Women and Child Development has not received any request from the State of Kerala so far.
(d): Does not arise.
(e): No Madam.
(f): Apart from above two schemes, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the following Schemes for economic empowerment of women in the country:
i. National Misssion for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) to strengthen the overall processes that promote all round development of Women;
i. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls-Sabla for all-round development of adolescent girls of 11-18 years by making them self-reliant by facilitating access to learning, health and nutrition;
ii. Working Women Hostels for ensuring safe accommodation for women working away from their place of residence;
iii. Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahayog Yojana (IGMSY) has been contributing towards better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers;
iv. Gender Budgeting has been adopted as a tool for mainstreaming gender perspective at various stages of planning, budgeting, implementation, impact assessment and revisiting of policy/ programme objectives and allocations;
v. Mahila-E-Haat, an online marketing platform has been launched on 7th March, 2016, to enhance the marketing prospects of the products manufactured by the beneficiaries. This is expected to empower and strengthen financial inclusion of women entrepreneurs in the economy by providing continued sustenance and support to their creativity.

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